

REMARKS

In this paper, claim 1 is currently amended, and claims 27 and 28 are added. After entry of the above amendment, claims 1-28 are pending.

Claims 1-7, 9-11, 13-21 and 23-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hsu (US 5,498,211). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the rotation restricting mechanism is positioned to substantially limit the amount of rotation of the base member relative to the mounting member so as to prevent the chain guide from striking the bicycle frame upon counterclockwise rotation of the base member relative to the mounting member when the base member is mounted to the bicycle frame. Hsu discloses a derailleur base member (305), a spring (304), a stop ring (303), and a snap ring (302). The right end of spring (304) is mounted in an opening (305a) in base member (305), and the left end of spring (304) is inserted into an opening (303a) in stop ring (303). As the office action properly notes, spring (304) biases base member (305) clockwise, resulting in a counterclockwise bias to stop ring (303) until a flange (303b) on stop ring (303) abuts against the bottom surface of a stop member (305b) on base member (305). In other words, according to the view shown in Fig. 3, stop ring (303) is biased counterclockwise until the bottom-facing surface of flange (303b) on stop ring (303) contacts the bottom-facing surface of stop member (305b) on base member (305). In Fig. 3, the bottom-facing surface of stop member (305b) on base member (305) is hidden by the cylindrical portion (305c) of base member (305).

A screw (301a) screws into a threaded opening (302c) in a plate (302b) of snap ring (302) and abuts against a positioning plate (303c) of stop ring (303), and a screw (301b) screws into a threaded opening (302d) of plate (302b) and abuts against a baffle angle (300b) of frame (300). Consequently, positioning plate (303c) of stop ring (303), plate (302b) of snap ring (302), and baffle angle (300b) of frame (300) are maintained at a fixed angle.

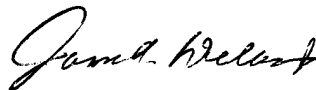
In order to restrict counterclockwise rotation of base member (305), base member (305) must be rotated 360° until the upper-facing surface of stop member (305b) (i.e., the upper-facing surface

at the bottom end of the lead line for reference numeral (305b)) contacts the upper-facing surface of flange (303b) on stop ring (303). Thus, rotation is restricted only by the thickness of flange (303b). Such a tiny amount of restriction is negligible and certainly is not at all capable of preventing the chain guide from striking the bicycle frame upon counterclockwise rotation of the base member relative to the mounting member when the base member is mounted to the bicycle frame.

Claims 8, 12, 22 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hsu in view of Ichida (US 5,931, 753). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed for the same reasons noted above.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 have been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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